

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02457 211557Z

66

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 IO-03 H-01 DODE-00 PM-03 /042 W

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R 211538Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7340

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2457

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: ASAD RETICENT RE ALLEGED US MEDDLING IN LEBANON.

REF: AMMAN 2101

1. SENIOR NEWSWEEK EDITOR ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE DEPARTED DAMASCUS TODAY AFTER A WEEK'S STAY UNSUCCESSFULLY SEEKING AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. IN TAKING LEAVE OF ASAD'S PRESS SECRETARY THIS MORNING, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE PRESIDENT REGRETTE HE COULD NOT SEE HIM BUT HE WAS TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE LEBANESE CRISIS. DE BORCHGRAVE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF A BRIEF OFF-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE WOULD RAISE UNDOF RENEWAL AND ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET U.S. MEDDLING IN LEBANON DESIGNED TO PROLONG THE CRISIS. PRESS SECRETARY TOLD DE BORCHGRAVE THAT PRESIDENT WOULD REFUSE TO DISCUSS EITHER TOPIC.

2. COMMENT:

BELIEVE COMMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT TO CODEL MATHIAS

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(AMMAN 2101) REPRESENTED LAPSE IN HIS NORMAL RETICENCE

WHERE U.S. POLICY IN LEBANON IS CONCERNED.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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